



The picture above, taken in about 1898, was an interesting relic shown at the 56th annual reunion of the descendants of Andrew and Catherine Sinclair Cottingham held Sunday at Little Rock. In the picture, back row, from the left: Daniel Sinclair (Dan) Cottingham (born 1847), Floryan (Flora) C. Hasty (born 1843), Andrew Cottingham (born 1818), Mary Bennett Cottingham (born 1851, second wife of Andrew Cottingham), Fielding Cottingham (Cain Cottingham's first wife), Katherine Cottingham (Dan's daughter), Nancy Jane (Nan) C. Cobb (born 1851), Mary Jane LeGette Cottingham (born 1853; front row: Ar-

chibald James Cousar (Arch) Cottingham (born 1857), Annie LeGette Cottingham (born 1856), wife of William Andrew Cottingham; May (born 1888), daughter of Will and Annie Cottingham, Frederick (born 1890), son of Will and Annie, William Andrew Cottingham (born 1855), Lou Burns Cottingham (born 1875), wife of El Cottingham; Alexander Jefferson (El) Cottingham (born 1849), Loula Mae Cottingham (born 1897), Elkana (Cain) Cottingham (born 1853), Annie Laurie Cottingham (born 1895), Simeon W. Cobb (husband of Nancy Jane), Norman W. Cobb, John C. Cottingham (born 1845).

Cottingham family holds reunion

by John C. Cottingham

The 56th annual reunion of the descendants of Andrew and Catherine Sinclair Cottingham was held Sunday at Little Rock with 56 of the family's 1,000 or so members present.

The group's president, Alexander Stanton of Florence, presided, reading from Scripture and calling on Chaplain John Cottingham of Ft. Benning, Ga., for prayer.

The historian, Sara Lillian S. Saleeby, gave family news from correspondence and recorded family events as reported by those present.

Mrs. Jennie Cottingham Henry of Greenville gave the secretary-treasurer's report, showing an adequate amount available and used for reunion business.

John C. Cottingham of Dillon was voted official historian and

reported on the progress of his research. He told of early origins and migrations of the Cottingham family beginning in 1504, according to a Yorkshire and Cheshire (English) genealogy.

The earliest migration to America was by George Cottingham in 1635 who came to the Jamestown Colony from London.

For several generations the family remained in the Del-Mar-Va area, some of them finally coming from Maryland and Delaware to the Marlboro district of South Carolina which before the Revolutionary War was known as the Cheraw district.

They settled on Three Creeks (now called Cottingham Creek) near Bennettsville. With many Welsh settlers from Pennsylvania's lower counties, they

arrived between 1772 and 1778.

The historian displayed photo copies of original land grants, wills, deed, etc. to the family in both Delaware and the Marlboro district of South Carolina. An issue of the South Carolina Gazette, Charleston, published a list of petit jury at Long Bluff (Cheraw) in 1778 which contains the names of Andrew's grandfather, Charles, and his relative, Jonathan Cottingham.

Nine heads of families with this surname were established in adjacent areas before the first U.S. census in 1790. Much of this information was obtained from microfilms available in the South Carolina Archives, Columbia.

Andrew Cottingham, born on Cottingham Creek Jan. 5, 1818, lived near Little Rock and was buried on his 85th birthday near

Clio in 1903. During his later life, his nine surviving children and many grandchildren gathered each year on his birthday at the old home.

Following his death, there were only a few such gatherings until August, 1920, when his son, Elkana, reorganized the reunion on a regular basis at the Little Rock school.

Since then only a few years were missed, due to war or a polio epidemic. The reunion is now held on the fourth Sunday in April as some of the older members had promised Uncle Cain (as Elkana was known) and Aunt Nan Cobb that they would never let the custom die.

Mrs. John C. Cottingham accompanied the group in an opening song, Faith of Our Fathers, and a closing song, America the Beautiful. The group adjourned after a picnic dinner.